



Advancing Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (ASLAA)

Quarterly Report

FY 2014 - QR3

1 PROJECT COVER SHEET

1.1 NAME OF THE PROJECT:

Advancing Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (ASLAA)

1.2. DATES (START/FINISH):

AGREEMENT/ CONTRACT

Sun, 30/09/2012 - 00:00 to Tue, 29/09/2015 - 00:00

REPORT PERIOD

Mon, 01/04/2014 - 00:00 to Sun, 30/06/2014 - 00:00

1.3. PRIME PARTNER:

Rainforest Alliance

1.4. NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER:

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1.6. NAME OF ALTERNATE AOR OR COR:

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1.7. MECHANISM NUMBER:

AID-OAA-A-11-00055

1.8. OVERALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Our strategy is premised on addressing the principal threats to biodiversity and their drivers identified in two landscapes that have the most significant impact and can be countered directly given the experience of Rainforest Alliance (RA) and its partners to optimize impacts locally. The threats include habitat degradation and loss due to wholesale deforestation or land-use conversion, while the drivers of these threats can be grouped into three areas: a) limited institutional capacity by local governments and communities for natural resource management; b) limited participation in and access to programs by local groups for resource management and sustainable production chains; and c) weak organizational capacity and market linkages of local producers and operators to grow local economic opportunities. RA and its partners, AIDER, and ECOLEX, designed this project to conserve biodiversity in two landscapes, Sucumbíos/Napo, Ecuador and Cusco/Madre de Dios (MDD), Peru. In the first landscape we work in the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve (CWR), the Limoncocha Biological Reserve (LBR) and the buffer zone of Sumaco – Napo Galeras National Park. In MDD, we work in the district of Tambopata in the communities of Tres Islas, Palma Real, Infierno, Sonene, and Puerto Arturo. We also work with the Brazil nut gatherer associations RONAP, located alongside the interoceanic highway, and ASCART, in the Tambopata National Reserve (TNR). In Cusco, we work in La Convención and Calca Provinces. Within CWR, we work in the tourism area and with the Siona communities of Tarabeia, San Victoriano, and Puerto Bolívar, for a total of 130,000 ha. The LBR is located in the Shushufindi canton close to Yasuní National Park (YNP). In the buffer zone of Sumaco-Napo Galeras National Park we work in the Hatun Sumaco parish (HS), which includes the Hatun Sumaku, Wawa Sumaku, Wuamaní, Patco Sumaku, Pucuno Chico, Volcán Sumaku and Challuayacu indigenous communities. In Tambopata, we work with the Ese Ejas, Shipibos, Yine, Amahuaca, and Kicharunas ethnicities representing 75,000 ha approximately. In upper and middle Tambopata, we work in the Filadelfia area with tourism operations, representing approx. 3,000 ha. The combined land area managed by ASCART and RONAP totals forest concession areas of approx. 70,000 ha. In La Convención Province we work in Quellouno and Echarate districts and in Calca Province in Yanatile district, within the Ivochote and Laco-Yavero watershed and cover 13,500 ha of the following cooperatives: Bioazul, Jose Olaya, Chaco Huayanay, Paquivo, Alto Urubamba, and Mateo Pumacahua and Asociación Agricultura Ecológica.

2. STRATEGY OVERVIEW

2.1. INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

2.1.1 IR1 - Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably:

The following main achievements will allow us to work toward addressing the principal environmental threats and their drivers of habitat degradation and loss due to wholesale deforestation or land-use conversion.

Under AR 1, *sound landscape planning and use of sustainable natural resource management (NRM) practices*:

- The Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment (MAE) approved the methodology for protected area visitor management and CWR, YNP, LBR and Pululahua Geobotanic Reserve completed their plans. We facilitated the development of indicators for limits of acceptable change to determine the tourism carrying capacity and install a continuous control and monitoring system in protected areas with an emphasis on biodiversity and water quality.
- The Security Plan for CWR developed with Peace Nexus and COGINTA was delivered to the Technical Security Committee. The plan's fundamental principles are local ownership of public

security policy and adoption of international security best practices. Institutions such as the Ministry of Defense and ECU 911 supported the process together with local actors, and will be responsible for its implementation.

- We developed the baseline for LBR with the International University SEK and LBR staff. It analyses the conservation status of the reserve, including biotic and socio-economic components, provides various recommendations to reduce pressure on biodiversity, and will be a key input for the protected area management plan.
- The HS land use plan was approved by the HS leadership, and subsequently will be presented to its corresponding communities.
- We continued supporting the HS communities of Challwayacu, Volcán Sumaco and Jatun Sumaku by updating actual and potential land use maps as part of their territorial legalization process.
- The NC of Tres Islas in MDD approved its proposed territorial land-use zoning.
- The community of Boca Paríamanu approved a 5-year forestry plan based on the results of forest inventories, and established a timber committee responsible for its implementation.
- The producer association PALSAMAD completed its 5-year strategic planning exercise.
- In coordination with the NGO ACCA, for the first time the NC of Puerto Arturo approved the assignation of Brazil nut areas to community members. This achievement will help to improve the distribution of benefits to community members and reduce existing internal and external conflicts related to Brazil nut extraction.
- 6 NC management plans incorporated the MDD Regional Fire Strategy. The subsequent communal regulations and fire manual will help reduce fires and their impacts from inadequate land-use practices.

Under AR2, *improved environmental governance*:

- In Peru, the National Forestry Authority approved the terms of reference for palm fruit management and harvesting, which include guidelines for the elaboration of management plans. This approval addresses an important legal gap that significantly limited the use of this resource.
- National tax and forestry authorities participated in the training of the NC of Infierno in basic accounting and legal obligations.

Under AR3, *improved sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem resilience*:

- Together with the University of Minnesota we are developing timber and non-timber value chains for copal and guayusa in HS, the most abundant commercial species found there.
- A pilot farm has been selected based on a number of criteria like crop diversity, availability of conservation area and forest, distance to other community members, and gender in each of the seven communities in HS; five have already been installed to support the training of farmers in the field.
- An experience exchange with 4-5 farmers from each of the 7 HS communities to Verde Canande in Santa Clara, Pastaza increased knowledge of naranjilla best management practices and commercialization.
- The selection committee for our small grants program in Ecuador made up of consortium members and USAID evaluated eight proposals and selected the following 4 proposals to be financed: Strengthen the accommodation and restaurant services of the Pacto Sumaco Community Tourism Center, Develop organic fertilizers for naranjilla and other products in the region for the Sacha Laran de Wamaní Group, Implement environmental best management practices and improve quality of the community tourism initiative "Pusara Limoncocha", and

Improve processing of fruit pulps, juices and jams at the Bilingual Technical College of Wamani

- To decrease production costs and environmental damage and improve effectiveness from fertilizer use in Lacco Yavero and Ivochote, we finalized and are implementing fertilization plans in 8 pilot farms in representative areas in each zone.
- To reduce contamination and health risks caused by diverting water from coffee processing to streams near farmers' houses, we successfully installed residual water treatment systems in 14 model farms. Surrounding farmers are already replicating these relatively simple systems.
- As a result of the technical assistance provided to agriculture technicians in the Ivochote municipality, 105 farms are improving the quality of their cocoa through the installation of 105 fermentation boxes. To improve the cupping quality of coffee the municipality is also installing "African beds" for coffee drying.
- Working toward increasing the competitiveness of tourism, the MDD Tourism Attractions Guide was published. It will provide inform local and national tour operators as well as tourism guides and the general public on regional tourism offerings.
- After being tested on children and adults in MDD, the educational packet on land-use for Cusco and MDD was finalized.
- We facilitated an experience exchange with representatives of the NC of Sonene, Palma Real, Tres Islas and Boca Pariamanu to agroforestry plots within the same region, where they learned about successful experiences in integrated land-use with agriculture and forestry.
- Palma Real women artisans learned to improve production quality and implement more sustainable tamshi collection practices through an experience exchange visit to Santa Rosa de Huacaria (Cusco), a community with ample experience in both areas.
- The Brazil nut association RONAP diversified and broke into a new geographic market with great potential through the establishment of its first commercial agreement with MUNAY, one of the principal agro industrial businesses in Cusco for the sale of 500 kg of peeled Brazil nut.
- After discussions with other public and private actors during a regional event exploring opportunities for financing in the forestry sector, AGROBANCO decided to open its credit program to small productive businesses apart from Brazil nut. RONAP and PALSAMAD will present proposals to this fund.

2.1.2 IR2 - Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance Functioning in Critical Landscapes:

Line of action 2 - *Promote the application of territorial conflict management mechanisms*

- Through the provision of continued support for the process of land tenure regulation, 4 HS communities (Challwayacu, Volcán Sumaco, Wawa Sumaco and Jatun Sumaku) discussed and approved their statutes. Subsequently, the statutes were presented to and approved by CODENPE (Ecuador Peoples and Nationalities Development Board), a necessary step for obtaining the land title.
- A territorial limits conflict between the communities Challwayacu and Volcán Sumaco was resolved. The formerly established limits were visited in the field and an agreement has been signed.
- A solution to the conflict between the MDD NC Palma Real and RNTAMB related to the overlapping of the two land areas was reached. Together both parties agreed to land use norms, clarified their limits, and pledged to jointly demarcate the limits.

Lines of action 5 and 6 - *Build capacity of civil society and indigenous organizations to influence the environmental decision-making and providing access and dissemination of environmental and natural resources information.*

- Twelve male and eleven female leaders in HS graduated from the Environmental Leadership School after six months of training in facilitation and planning, rights, identity, citizenship and gender, management of natural resources, climate change, organization and leadership and conflict management. The participants have already replicated 139 trainings with approximately 2,000 participants from their respective communities.
- The Ecuadorian Ministry of Health joined the naranjilla roundtable to address health problems stemming from excess chemical use in naranjilla production. Also under the guidance of the naranjilla roundtable, the process of establishing an association of naranjilla producers was initiated, with a preliminary list of 103 participants.
- For the third consecutive time, AFIMAD, the association of native communities of MDD, held successful elections for their new board of directors. The election process included ample participation by the communities, and was preceded by the revision of the strategic plan and an evaluation of its implementation.

2.1.3 IR3 - Increased Capacity to Utilize Payment for Environmental Services (PES)-like and other Economic Incentive Programs:

- The community of Pucuno Chico in Napo presented the requirements for entering into the Socio Bosque conservation incentive program, with 556.27 hectares, representing revenue of 13,031.50 USD per year.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP) approved the model proposed for the reforestation incentive in HS. Together with the Amazon State University we selected the species *Cordia Allodora* for this reforestation program.
- RONAP, together with the buyer and processor CANDELA, began the FairTrade re-certification process in order to obtain the seal and benefits from it in 2015 or 2016.

2.1.4 IR4 - Greater Understanding and Solutions for Key Environmental Issues:

Together with tourism operations, guides, canoeists and the environmental authority of the CWR, we developed a protocol for visiting the crested eagle nest, a species that is listed as Near Threatened in the international IUCN Red List and Vulnerable in Ecuador. Important agreements have been established (e.g. days, duration and interval of visits) for having the least possible impact from tourism.

2.1.5 Support Unit Services:

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8.SUMMARY

8.1 Achievements:

- In Peru, the National Forestry Authority approved the terms of reference for palm fruit management and harvesting, which include guidelines for the elaboration of management plans.

- Territorial limits conflicts between the communities Challwayacu and Volcán Sumaco in HS, and Palma Real and RNTAMB in MDD were resolved. The latter agreed to land use norms, clarified their limits, and pledged to jointly demarcate the limits.
- The methodology for protected area visitor management was approved by the MAE, and the CWR, YNP, LBR and Pululahua Geobotanic Reserve completed their plans. We also facilitated the development of indicators for limits of acceptable change to determine the tourism carrying capacity and install a continuous control and monitoring system in protected areas.

8.2 Challenges and Adjustments:

- The imminent departure of USAID from Ecuador significantly reduces the possibility of continuing to receive USAID funding for an important third phase of ICAA in Ecuador as anticipated. We have begun the exercise of reviewing activities and strategies to make the necessary adjustments in the final year of SL to maximize impact and increase the probability of sustaining activities after ICAA II where possible.